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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTIETH SESSION

NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 14 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa".

An explanatory memorandum (see annex) as well as an appended draft resolution in support of the above request are attached to the present letter in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Khiphusizi J. JELE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

95-28096 (E) 180995 190995

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. Following the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, the international community invited the South African delegation to resume its participation in the work of the General Assembly on 23 June 1994. By the provisions of its resolution 48/258 A, adopted by consensus on that date, the General Assembly explicitly recognized the exceptional circumstances pertaining to South Africa's situation at the United Nations.

2. On 3 October 1994, South Africa paid 11 million United States dollars to the United Nations Secretariat in respect of South Africa's assessments to the United Nations budget. That amount represented South Africa's assessed membership contribution to both the regular budget and the various peace-keeping operations as from 23 June 1994, the date on which South Africa resumed its seat in the General Assembly. Moreover, that amount permitted South Africa to effect full payment to the 1995 regular budget in a timely manner. The Government of South Africa thereby fulfilled its undertaking to meet, in full and on time, the financial obligations associated with membership of the United Nations.

3. However, a substantial amount remains attributed to South Africa as so-called "arrears" that were accumulated during the apartheid era. During that era, the General Assembly adopted numerous resolutions in which the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa were condemned as a crime against humanity and a negation of the Charter of the United Nations. All States were exhorted to take appropriate action.

4. The representatives of the apartheid regime were thus excluded from participation in the General Assembly in order to protest those apartheid policies. That step, taken by the international community to isolate the apartheid regime, has been vindicated by the liberation of South Africa. The regime retaliated by withholding its contribution to the United Nations.

5. The democratically elected Government, which took office over a year ago, remains confronted with an untenable situation: owing to the assistance of the United Nations, the scourge of apartheid has been eradicated and the people of South Africa liberated. Yet, South Africa continues to be held liable for the arrears accumulated during the apartheid era.

6. In view of the unique historical circumstances relating to South Africa, the Government of South Africa is confident that the General Assembly, which took a principled and moral decision to exclude the South African delegation from participation in its work, will, once again, take a political decision to resolve this outstanding matter.

7. The attached draft resolution (see appendix) is intended to provide an appropriate formula that would hold South Africa responsible solely for contributions relating to the period following 23 June 1994.

8. In the light of the above, the inclusion of the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa" is requested.

APPENDIX

Draft resolution

Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/258 A, adopted by consensus on 23 June 1994, the date on which South Africa was invited to resume its participation in the work of the General Assembly,

Noting that South Africa has since that date commenced payment of its assessed contributions,

Recalling the exceptional circumstances pertaining to the resumption of South Africa's participation in the work of the General Assembly following the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial South Africa,

Recognizing that, owing to these exceptional circumstances, South Africa should be held liable solely for contributions relating to the period following 23 June 1994,

1. Decides that, owing to these unique and exceptional circumstances, South Africa's unpaid assessments accruing up to 23 June 1994 for the regular budget of the United Nations shall be considered no longer due and payable, and that the amount of authorized retained surplus in the General Fund pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/216 of 21 December 1987 shall be reduced accordingly;

2. Decides also that, owing to these unique and exceptional circumstances, South Africa's unpaid assessments accruing up to 23 June 1994 for United Nations peace-keeping operations shall be considered no longer due and payable;

3. Decides further that the full amounts of authorized retained surplus in the special account of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 46/194 of 20 December 1991, 47/205 of 22 December 1992 and 49/226 of 23 December 1994 and the appropriate amount of the authorized retained surplus pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/244 of 21 December 1990 shall be reduced accordingly and the funds applied to offset South Africa's outstanding peace-keeping contributions referred to in paragraph 2 above.